

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01927 190324Z

72

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SUBJECT: BURMESE-THAI HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETS

REF: RANGOON 1915

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT AUG 17 STATED THAT BURMESE-THAI HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST AND SECOND PLENARY MEETINGS THAT DATE AND THAT "TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF WARM CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." THAI DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN U NE WIN IN AFTERNOON, WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GENERAL SAN YU AND FOREIGN MINISTER U KYAW SOE ALSO PRESENT. NE WIN GAVE INFORMAL DINNER SAME EVENING FOR PARTICIPANTS.

2. PRESS AUG 18 PRINTED TEXTS OF OPENING STATEMENTS BY LEADERS OF TWO DELEGATIONS. FOLLOWING WERE AMONG POINTS MADE BY FONMIN KYAW SOE.

A. IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT AS NEIGHBORS BURMA AND THAILAND SHARE NOT ONLY CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS BUT ALSO CERTAIN COMMON PROBLEMS. IT IS CLEARLY IN MUTUAL INTERESTS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE COMMON INTERESTS AND REMOVE ALL ELEMENTS OF POSSIBLE DISCORD.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 01927 190324Z

B. TWO GOVTS RECOGNIZED THIS FACT AS LONG AGO AS 1963 WHEN THEY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT ON BORDER ARRANGEMENTS AND COOPERATION. TASK OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY ALONG COMMON BORDER WAS ENTRUSTED PRINCIPALLY TO OUR COMMITTEE WHOSE MANDATE IS TO STRENGTHEN BORDER SECURITY, SOLVE SUCH SPECIFIC BORDER PROBLEMS AS MAY ARISE AND DEVISE MEASURES OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION IN GENERAL.

C. POLICY OF TWO GOVTS REFLECTS FERVENT DESIRE OF OUR TWO PEOPLES TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE, HARMONY AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION.

D. PRESENCE OF THAI DELEGATION AND REACTIVATION OF HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE SIGNIFIES DETERMINATION OF TWO GOVTS TO ESTABLISH FULL AND STABLE CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN COMMON BORDER REGIONS.

3. FOLLOWING WERE AMONG POINTS MADE BY AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE IN RESPONSES:

A. DECISION OF GUB TO REACTIVATE BORDER COMMITTEE WAS HIGHLY WEL-COMED BY RTG, SINCE THAI PRIMIN AND CABINET FEEL THAT COMMITTEE WOULD BE USED AS INSTRUMENT TO ENHANCE MUTUAL COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING. IT IS GOOD OMEN THAT THERE IS RESUMPTION OF MEETING RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.

B. BORDER COMMITTEE PROVIDES DIRECT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO GOVTS. IF GREATER HARMONY IS TO BE ACHIEVED THERE MUST BE FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND CONTACT MUST BE ESTABLISHED NOT ONLY AMONG TOP OFFICIALS BUT ON ALL LEVELS DOWN FROM HIGHEST AUTHORITY TO LOCAL LEVEL. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN.

C. SOME OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS MAY NEED MORE TIME AND GREATER PATIENCE, BUT THERE IS NO LACK OF GOODWILL ON PART RTG TO WORK TOWARD MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS.

D. DEPARTURE FROM THAILAND OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER U NU, AND HANDING OVER OF LO HSING-HAN AND SAI DUE AT REQUEST OF GUB CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE WILLINGNESS OF RTG TO COOPERATE WITH GUB.
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PAGE 03 RANGOO 01927 190324Z

E. AT PRESENT MEETING WE FEEL IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF WE COULD REVIEW EXISTING AGREEMENT AND TRY TO SEE WHETHER WE COULD MADE OUT A LIST OF TIPCIS AND ORDER OF PRIORITY OF SUBJECTS WHICH WE CAN WORK ON. IT IS NECESSARY TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR OFFICIALS TO FOLLOW AND TO EXAMINE METHODS AND PROCEDURES WHICH COMMITTEE COULD ADOPT FOR THE FUTURE.

F. RECENT TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAVE MADE US REALIZE THAT SMALL COUNTRIES CAN PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS THROUGH CLOSER CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION AMONG OURSELVES. WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO NOTE THAT GUB HAS SHOWN GREATER INTEREST IN AFFAIRS OF THE REGION AND WE HOPE GUB WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS. REGIONAL GROUPINGS ENABLE SMALL COUNTRIES TO EXERT MORE INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS SUCH AS UN AND HELP SAFEGUARD THEIR INTERESTS.

G. THAI EXPERIENCE IN ASEAN HAS BEEN A HAPPY ONE IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. ASEAN IS ALWAYS IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM OF PEACE AND RECENT PLAN TO SET UP SEA AS ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY REFLECTS WITH OF ITS MEMBERS AND DESIRE TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO REGION.

H. RTG POLICY IS TO PRACTICE GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND REFRAIN FROM UNDERMINING STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, FOR THEIR STRENGTH AND STABILITY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TO SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THAILAND ITSELF .

H. WE THEREFORE HAVE TO WORK CLOSELY FOR OUR STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY AND ALTHOUGH WE RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WE NEVER ALLOW THOSE COUNTRIES TO INTERFERE WITH OUR POLICY TOWARD OUR NEIGHBORS.

4. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET.
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